

Appl. No.: 09/734,310
Amdt. dated July 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 10, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the following amendments and remarks, reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of the rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited. As detailed in the Office Action mailed April 10, 2006, Claims 1-15 are pending, wherein Claims 1-4 and 6-10 have been rejected, and Claims 5 and 11-15 have been objected to. In response to the Office Action, Claims 5 and 11 have essentially been rewritten in independent form. The Applicants thus submit that, as indicated under *Allowable Subject Matter* in the Office Action, the claims now define patentable subject matter over the prior art cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, notice to such effect is requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 and 6-10 were rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,083,352 to Snellman et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,676,799 to Meschenmoser et al.

In response to these rejections, Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 5 and 11, respectively, and Claims 5 and 11 have been cancelled. By incorporating the subject matter of Claims 5 and 11 into Claims 1 and 7, respectively, the Applicants have essentially rewritten Claims 5 and 11 in independent form, as indicated in the Office Action under *Allowable Subject Matter*. The Applicants thus submit that amended Claims 1 and 7, as well as Claims 2-4, 6, 8-10, and 12-15 which depend therefrom, are allowable over the Snellman '352 and Meschenmoser '799 patents cited in the Office Action. As such, Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-15 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Consideration Of Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statement

It is noted that an initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed February 28, 2001, has not been returned to Applicants' representative with the Office Action. Accordingly, it is requested that an initialed copy of the Form 1449 be forwarded to the undersigned with the next communication from the

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PTO. In order to facilitate review of the references by the Examiner, a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and the Form 1449 are attached hereto. Copies of the cited references were provided at the time of filing the original Information Disclosure Statement, and, therefore, no additional copies of the references are submitted herewith. Applicants will be pleased to provide additional copies of the references upon the Examiner's request if it proves difficult to locate the original references.

Conclusion

In conclusion, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, notice to such effect is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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